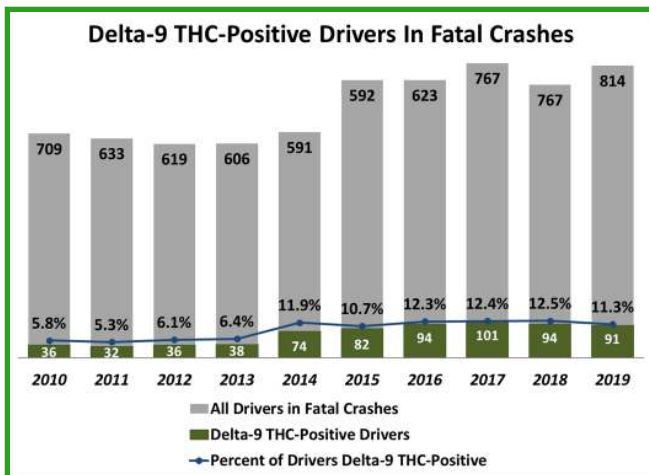




Cannabis Involvement Among Drivers in Fatal Crashes

Trends show fatal crashes involving drivers testing positive for delta-9 tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) have remained mostly stable since an increase in 2014. The percent of drivers positive for delta-9 THC comprises about 12% of all drivers involved in fatal crashes. There was also a decrease in driver testing rates during this same time frame; from 63% of drivers tested in 2013 down to 45% in 2019. More than half of delta-9 THC positive drivers had consumed alcohol and one-third had consumed other drugs, a portion of drivers in both categories.

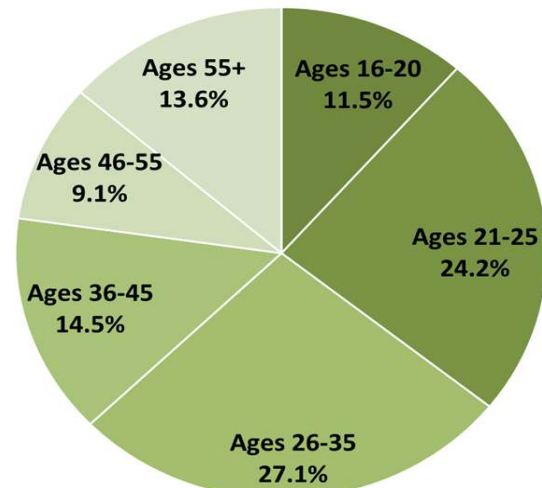


Did you know?

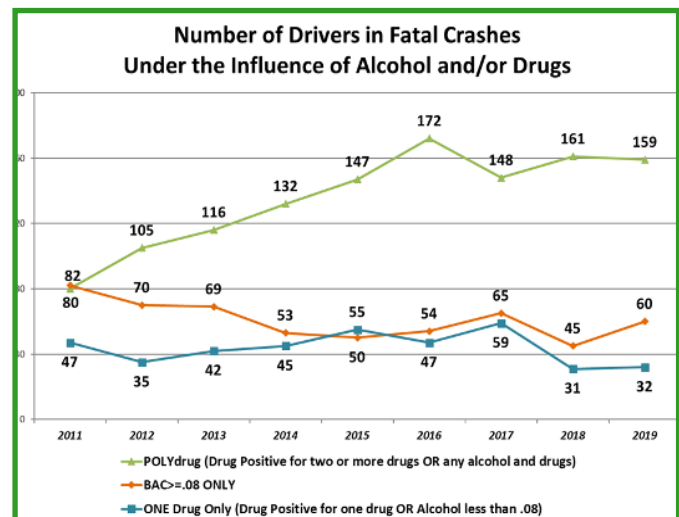
- ⇒ Delta-9 THC drivers also exhibited other high-risk behaviors, such as speeding (43%), not wearing a seat belt (25%), and being distracted (20%).
- ⇒ More than one-third of drivers positive for delta-9 THC were between the ages of 16 and 25.
- ⇒ The majority (84%) of delta-9 THC-positive drivers in fatal crashes were male.
- ⇒ Cannabis and alcohol is the most common combination of poly-drugs among drivers in fatal crashes. One of every four poly-drug drivers in fatal crashes were positive for both delta-9 THC and alcohol.
- ⇒ Overall, alcohol is three times more prevalent among drivers in fatal crashes than delta-9 THC.

I care, because 587 people have died in Washington since 2014 in crashes involving delta-9 THC-positive drivers, which was about 18% of all traffic deaths.

Delta-9 THC Positive Drivers in Fatal Crashes 2015-2019



Poly-Drug Drivers are now the most common type of impaired driver involved in fatal crashes. Nearly three of every four delta-9 THC positive drivers were also positive for other drugs and/or alcohol. For the first time in 2012, drivers who had consumed multiple drugs became more prevalent than fatal crash-involved drivers who had consumed only alcohol or just one drug.



Data Sources:

Washington Fatality Analysis Reporting System (WA-FARS), Washington Traffic Safety Commission

Toxicology Reports, Washington State Patrol

For more information, please contact Washington Traffic Safety Commission, Research and Data Division at (360) 725-9860.

<https://wtsc.wa.gov/research-data/>

Cannabis Involvement Among Drivers in Fatal Crashes

Drivers in Fatal Crashes	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	TOTAL
Total Drivers in Fatal Crashes	619	606	591	592	623	767	767	814	754	807	6,940
Drivers Who Were Tested For Drugs	378	344	345	373	343	396	419	395	383	365	3,741
Drivers Who Were NOT Tested For Drugs	241	262	246	219	280	371	348	419	371	442	3,199
Percent of Drivers Tested for Drugs	61.1%	56.8%	58.4%	63.0%	55.1%	51.6%	54.6%	48.5%	50.8%	45.2%	53.9%
Drivers Positive for Any Cannabis	81	56	63	59	88	92	109	113	102	99	862
Percent of Tested Drivers Who Were Cannabis-Positive	21.4%	16.3%	18.3%	15.8%	25.7%	23.2%	26.0%	28.6%	26.6%	27.1%	23.0%
Percent of Total Drivers Who Were Cannabis-Positive	13.1%	9.2%	10.7%	10.0%	14.1%	12.0%	14.2%	13.9%	13.5%	12.3%	12.4%
Drivers Positive For Delta-9 THC	36	32	36	38	74	82	94	101	94	91	678
Percent of Tested Drivers Who Were Delta-9 THC-Positive	9.5%	9.3%	10.4%	10.2%	21.6%	20.7%	22.4%	25.6%	24.5%	24.9%	18.1%
Percent of Total Drivers Who Were Delta-9 THC-Positive	5.8%	5.3%	6.1%	6.4%	11.9%	10.7%	12.3%	12.4%	12.5%	11.3%	9.8%
Cannabis Metabolite-positive (no Delta-9 THC)	45	24	27	21	14	10	15	12	8	8	184
Percent of Cannabis-Positive Drivers Who Were Delta-9 THC-Positive	44.4%	57.1%	57.1%	64.4%	84.1%	89.1%	86.2%	89.4%	92.2%	91.9%	78.7%
Delta-9 THC Under <5ng/ml	12	13	12	18	36	36	46	39	42	38	292
Delta-9 THC Over >5ng/ml	24	19	23	19	38	42	44	59	47	50	365
Delta-9 THC Level Unknown	0	0	1	1	0	4	4	3	5	3	21
Delta-9 THC & Alcohol $\geq .08$	18	21	14	19	28	37	41	42	39	44	303
Percent Delta-9 THC & Alcohol $\geq .08$	50.0%	65.6%	38.9%	50.0%	37.8%	45.1%	43.6%	41.6%	41.5%	48.4%	44.7%
Delta-9 THC & Alcohol $\leq .079$	3	1	1	5	9	9	4	11	9	9	68
Percent Delta-9 THC & Alcohol $\leq .079$	8.3%	3.1%	2.8%	13.2%	12.2%	11.0%	4.3%	10.9%	9.6%	9.9%	10.0%
Delta-9 THC & Any Alcohol	21	22	15	24	37	46	45	53	48	53	364
Percent Delta-9 THC & Any Alcohol	58.3%	68.8%	41.7%	63.2%	50.0%	56.1%	47.9%	52.5%	51.1%	58.2%	53.7%
Delta-9 THC & Other Drugs	8	8	11	11	27	27	36	30	32	30	220
Percent Delta-9 THC & Other Drugs	22.2%	25.0%	30.6%	28.9%	36.5%	32.9%	38.3%	29.7%	34.0%	33.0%	32.4%
Delta-9 THC ONLY	9	7	13	8	19	24	28	31	29	22	190
Delta-9 THC & Other Alcohol or Drugs	27	25	23	30	55	58	66	70	65	69	488
Percent Delta-9 THC & Other Alcohol or Drugs	75.0%	78.1%	63.9%	78.9%	74.3%	70.7%	70.2%	69.3%	69.1%	75.8%	72.0%

Data Sources:

Washington Fatality Analysis Reporting System (WA-FARS), Washington Traffic Safety Commission

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